
could be subject to prosecution under other federal laws.

Examples of Food Stamp Violations:

- giving false or misleading information or withholding facts in order to obtain food stamps;
- trading or selling food stamps;
- altering food stamp identification cards to get food stamps;
- buying ineligible items such as alcoholic drinks or tobacco with food stamps;
- using someone else's food stamps or identification card; or
- trading food stamps for guns, ammunition or explosives.

To report food stamp violations, call 1-800-342-1784.

If you get more **Medicaid/TennCare** benefits than you are eligible for, you will have to repay the Department of Health or your TennCare Managed Care Organization (MCO) for those benefits.

Improper use of your Medicaid/TennCare benefits may also be a violation punishable by imprisonment or fines.

Examples of Medicaid/TennCare Violations:

- giving false or misleading information or withholding facts in order to obtain Medicaid/TennCare;

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- loaning or selling your TennCare card to anyone;
 - getting services you do not need; altering your TennCare card;
 - using your TennCare card to pay for forged or altered prescriptions;
 - not reporting a stolen card.

Certain types of fraud which you may observe and should report are:

- providers of medical services performing unnecessary work;
- providers of medical services requesting payment from Medicaid/TennCare enrollees if Medicaid/TennCare covers that service and the enrollee is not required to pay coinsurance or deductibles.

Any program violation about which you become aware should be reported to the Tennessee Department of Human Services or the Tennessee Department of Health, using the Medicaid/TennCare Fraud and Abuse toll-free hotline, **1-800-342-3145**.

The Department of Human Services is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the Department of Human Services, Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action - Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 400 Deaderick Street, Citizens Plaza Building, 3rd Floor, Nashville, TN 37248-2000, (615)313-5570, or V/TTY(615)532-8569 for more information.



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FRAUD, THE LAW AND YOU



FRAUD, THE LAW AND YOU

Families First, Medicaid/TennCare or Food Stamp Recipients

As an applicant or recipient of Families First, Medicaid/TennCare or Food Stamps, you must give complete and correct information to the Department of Human Services.

You must also report any important changes in your circumstances to your local Human Services Office. Important changes include:

- your income or expenses;
 - property you own;
 - where you live;
 - members of your household (who move in or out of your home or go somewhere for a long visit);
 - marriages, births, divorces or deaths of household members.
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It is against state and federal laws for you to give false information or to withhold information on purpose in order to get aid. Under these laws, the Department of Human Services (DHS) can take you to court for an intentional violation.

Federal laws require DHS to recover all overpayments. Anyone who is convicted of violating program rules, federal or state laws may receive a fine, a jail term or both, in addition to repaying the benefits they were overpaid. Program violations also may cause a person to be disqualified from receiving food stamps and Families First.

Your case manager can obtain information on all wages, unemployment, and federal benefits, such as Social Security that you receive. If you fail to tell us about this money, the excess amount of benefits you receive can cause you to be prosecuted in a court of law.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Tennessee Department of Health are working hard to prevent, detect and prosecute abusers of Families First, TennCare or food stamps.

Any information found to be inaccurate can be considered a violation of program rules.

Any member of a household who is found guilty of **Families First** violations will be:

- disqualified for 6 months for the first offense;
 - disqualified for 12 months for the second offense;
 - permanently disqualified for the third offense.
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Examples of Families First Violations:

- willfully giving false information;
- holding back information;
- hiding information;
- doing anything meant to hide, hold back, mislead or misrepresent facts so you can get, keep, get more or keep from getting less cash assistance.

If you get cash assistance in two states at the same time, you may be disqualified for 10 years.

If you fail to give truthful and/or complete information, and as a result, receive a check for your spouse, dependent children or yourself when you should not, you could be prosecuted for a felony. This could result in a possible penalty of up to 10 years in prison. You also could be prosecuted for perjury.

Any member of a household who is found guilty of **Food Stamp** violations will be:

- disqualified for 12 months the first time;
- disqualified for 24 months the second time;
- disqualified permanently the third time.

If you lie about who you are and where you live in order to get food stamps in more than one case at the same time, you cannot get food stamps for 10 years.

In addition, individuals found guilty of any of these violations could be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to 5 years, or both. They also
